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Niles grad now award-winning choir director

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
James Jones poses with his Hanford High School choir during an Ireland Tour in 2024.

COMMUNITY REPORT

WASHINGTON — Before he became an award-winning choir director in Washington state, Niles’ James Jones was associated with Southwestern Michigan College theatrical productions for a decade, first as a student, then as an adjunct instructor. His job fulfills a “lifelong ambition.”

Last year Jones won Richland School District’s 2024 Crystal Apple Award. He also took a group of high schoolers to Ireland for a week on a performance tour.

When he joined the Richland School District as Hanford High’s choir director, the school only had one choir.

Entering his 11th year helping students discover their musical passions, his program features six choirs – one of the largest in the Tri-Cities.

The Tri-Cities are three closely-linked cities at the confluence of the Yakima, Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington.

Richland, Pasco and Kennewick border one another, making the Tri-Cities seem like one uninterupt-

ed mid-sized city.

Jones works tirelessly with 200 choir students daily. He has the rare talent of letting students know he deeply cares and values them while also holding them accountable for their attitudes and efforts.

“Through the inclusion of many different musical cultures and styles, and just the person he is, Mr. Jones cultivated my love for music and continues to be a positive influence in my life,” said Hanford High graduate Jesse Gervais. “I am just so grateful.”

See CHOIR, Page A8

Edwardsburg talks cannabis ordinance, staff pay

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg Village Council resumed discussions about rental processes for the Gunn Park shelter and considered staff pay increases and a revision to the village cannabis ordinance at their regular monthly meeting on Monday.

The cannabis discussion was prompted by a prospective business interested in the property of the former Maple Cafe. In order for another cannabis dispensing operation to open in the village, the ordinance would need to be changed to three licenses from the current two. There was little interest from the council in changing the ordinance, in spite of their gratitude for the business’ interest in Edwardsburg. Among the concerns raised were market saturation and previous legal issues the village faced when changing marijuana ordinances. It was also noted that, even if the ordinance were changed, the process would have to be opened up to bids from any cannabis business, not just the one interested in the cafe building.

Village President Dennis Peak proposed pay raises for village staff and opened discussion of returning the hourly village clerk position to salary, as it had been in the past. Peak noted that while staff has received an annual incremental pay increase, a cost

of living adjustment hasn’t been revised in four years. He proposed a \$1 an hour increase for all full time employees. Trustee Kellen Van Hulle also proposed an additional \$1 an hour raise for Water Superintendent Rich Low for his increased workload and responsibility in relation to the new iron filtration plant and for leading the Department of Public Works.

“He has done a very nice job of putting in the time and effort in making sure the water for our village is good,” said Van Hulle.

A formal resolution regarding the pay increases and the possible shift for the treasurer position will be brought to the March meeting for a vote.

The Parks board is resuming work on rental processes for the Gunn Park shelter in anticipation of the coming spring. The board will continue to discuss how much to charge, as well as how to handle deposits, waivers, cleaning, and liability and bring a plan to the council.

The council approved the adoption of the Ontwa Township and Village of Edwardsburg Joint Master Plan, as well as several amendments in order to balance the budget. They also approved the village portion of the 2025-2026 Police Budget and an increase in the Crossing Guard Salary.

A variety of problems with local trash pickup were discussed, including cans

See PAY, Page A8

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Niles teacher wins Excellence in Education Award from Michigan Lottery

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — A Niles teacher known for the positive impact he has in his school and community has been honored with an Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery.

The award winner, Dustin Cornelius, is an English and Media Productions teacher at Niles

Senior High School. The school is part of Niles Community Schools.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

Winners of the weekly award receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of

the weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery’s Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner also is featured in a news segment on the Lottery’s media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, WNEM-TV in Saginaw, and

See AWARD, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli (right) presents Dustin Cornelius with his Excellence in Education check.

Protesters rally against HR 22/SAVE Act

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Community members gathered in downtown Niles Monday afternoon to protest against a bill that critics say would create unnecessary barriers to voting.

35 people gathered outside Rep. Tim Walberg’s office in Niles demanding the congressman to do more to take a stand

against the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility, or SAVE Act. The demonstration comes on the heels of the group’s protest of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency last week.

The bill would “amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal of-

fice, and for other purposes.” The bill does not elaborate on the definition of “other purposes.”

The bill – also known as H.R. 22 – would also require proof of U.S. citizenship for “any method of voter registration in a State,” meaning documentation may be necessary to make modifications such as address or name

See RALLY, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

OBITUARIES

Jack Herrick
James F. Scarpone
Heather Good
Charles “Charlie” Frank Espick
Laurie Ann Armour
Eldona Blue
Roger Herman Wilkins
Gary Allen Hughes

Kimberly Brown
Mary Ann Griggs
Dawn Marie Glosson Polly
Jeryl “George” Spencer
Alice Brown
Glenyce Anne Haggin
Carolyn Joan Feathers
Edward Gutschenreiter

A4, A6, A7 Experienced White Pigeon holds off Cassopolis 69-52

B1



FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Yeah, I kind of think keeping the US National Nuclear Security Administration employee jobs intact is important. Musk shutoff their emails, fired them and now they are trying to bring them back. Sounds like it wasn't too well thought out.

Will New Mexico become New America?

So far, so much waste has been found and all of these lifetime politicians are scared stiff. No wonder we are 35 trillion in debt.

Give Trump a chance. He ain't perfect, but we need more cuts and term limits for Congress. That includes our very own members of Congress in our state.

My insurance denied another procedure my doctor wants me to have. Who is running our healthcare system? Should I be seeing an insurance doctor somewhere?

I have yet to walk into any grocery store and not find eggs available. I don't get it. If supply is sitting on the shelves, where is the enormous demand causing eggs to be \$8 a dozen. This sure sounds like it is by design.

I thought high food prices would be addressed on day one. I don't remember Trump saying that we would suffer high prices a lot longer. Biden did little to help, but that's why he is gone and Trump was elected, to fix these things quickly.

I understand the governmental layoffs, but I also don't want to wait 3 years to get a passport or 6 months to speak to someone at the Social Security office. These people also have families to feed.

A Spring sun and plant life will be here soon. Hang on just a little longer.

WEATHER

SATURDAY



Mostly Sunny

30° 21°

SUNDAY



Partly Cloudy

34° 29°

MONDAY



Partly Cloudy

41° 33°

TUESDAY



Partly Cloudy

43° 33°

WEDNESDAY



30% Chance of Rain

45° 32°

THURSDAY



40% Chance Frozen Mix

36° 23°



'IT WAS WONDERFUL'

Senior couples renew wedding vows at Niles assisted living center

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — It was a special day for seniors at Brentwood at Niles Senior Living Thursday, Feb. 13.

Three couples who have been married for a combined 200 years renewed their vows in front of family, friends and loved ones. The ceremony was officiated by Wayne Stratton and featured music, lemonade and most importantly, cake. Each couple was given t-shirts featuring their names as well as the date they were married and a special certificate commemorating the ceremony.

"This is teamwork because we couldn't have done it just with one person," said Brentwood Life Enrichment Director John Coleman. "The whole team worked real hard to get this whole ceremony done. It's amazing — like all the residents say, this truly is a family. Just to see all the people here, it's just tears of joy."

Sheila and Ed Light have been married for 55 years.

"It was just wonderful," Ed said. "For them to respect and honor these marriages means a lot. There are some couples who have been together for 75 years. It's miraculous."

Frances and Dennis Smed-

ley have been together for 71 years.

"We are very thankful," Frances said.

Pauline and Harold Mathis have made 74 trips around the sun in marriage.

"We cannot believe it," she said. "They told us we were going to say our vows. I'm thinking 'five minutes and it'll be over.' I don't know what I can do for them."

Pauline and Harold, 93, both from Tennessee, married in Georgia. She said they eloped in Georgia to escape from the prying eyes of their small Tennessee town.

"In order to get married in Tennessee, you had to have a blood test," she said. "I knew if we took the test, everybody in town would know it. So we snuck out on a Saturday morning and went to Ross-

ville, Georgia to get married. We found a baptist preacher who married us."

She said because they eloped, they did not have a special ceremony — until now.

"74 years ago, it wasn't this big," she said.

Shortly after they were married, the couple moved to the Niles area. Harold worked at Conair for years and the couple owned a vacuum cleaner shop in Downtown Niles. Pauline worked for Brandywine Community Schools for years in the superintendent's office. Pauline said she is thankful to have shared 75 years of marriage with Harold.

"It's hard to remember before that," she said. "You just wonder what did I do before we had each other?"

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TOP LEFT: Frances and Dennis Smedley pose for a photo with daughter Lynn following Thursday's vow renewal ceremony. The Smedleys have been married for 71 years.

TOP RIGHT: Pauline and Harold Mathis renewed their wedding vows Thursday after 74 years of marriage.

BOTTOM LEFT: Wayne Stratton (left) officiates the vow renewal ceremony Thursday at Brentwood at Niles Senior Living.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Sheila and Ed Light renewed their wedding vows Thursday after 55 years of marriage.



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SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
University of Michigan Director of Bands Jason K. Fettig was on hand for Southwestern Michigan College's fifth annual Bands Clinic Day Friday, Feb. 14.

SMC hosts band clinic with U-M Director

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College's fifth annual Bands Clinic Day Feb. 14 featured six area school bands and almost 350 musicians critiqued by University of Michigan Director of Bands Jason K. Fettig to polish March Southwestern Michigan Band and Orchestra Association (SWMBOA) festival programs.

Fettig, 28th conductor of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band and Chamber Orchestra, served as White House music advisor to two of the five presidents he worked for and regularly conducted the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the executive mansion.

John Philip Sousa, "The March King," was the 17th conductor, from 1880-1892, and performed in Dowagiac.

Fettig led the musical program for the inaugurations of President Donald J. Trump and President Joseph R. Biden and the State Funeral of George H.W. Bush.

Like Sousa, Fettig served as music director of Wash-

Fettig, 28th conductor of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band and Chamber Orchestra, served as White House music advisor to two of the five presidents he worked for and regularly conducted the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the executive mansion.

ington, D.C.'s, Gridiron Club.

Performances under his baton have occurred in 49 U.S. states as well as Japan, the Czech Republic, Austria and The Netherlands.

Live concerts have been regularly heard on National Public Radio's "Performance Today," and on national television broadcasts from the White House, on "The Today Show," the "David Letterman Show" on PBS, NBC and CBS.

He has worked with such pop superstars as Jennifer Hudson, Jordin Sparks and Lady Gaga.

SMC Director of Bands Mark Hollandsworth's Symphonic Band rehearsed with Fettig Thursday night to present "National Emblem March." For Hollandsworth's musicians, of whom about 60 percent are not music majors, it was an opportunity to road-test selections for "Legend," the winter con-

cert at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28. There will also be a percussion clinic that day.

Visiting bands included: Marcellus High School Concert Band, Katy Essex, director; Watervliet High School Band, Jennifer Hollandsworth, director; Bangor High School Concert Band, Tianna Doe, director; Buchanan High School Symphonic Band, Matthew Orsillo, director; Lakeshore High School Symphonic Band; Matthew Pagel, director, and Christopher Grapis, assistant director; and Berrien Springs High School Wind Symphony, Kelly Rosselit, director.

Clinic Day, introduced on Valentine's Day in 2020 and canceled by COVID-19 in 2021, resumed in 2022 in the theatre of the Dale A. Lyons Building on the Dowagiac campus. It is co-sponsored with Quinlan and Fabish Music Co., Stevensville.

Each band receives a similar experience of an hour on stage, playing festival selections, with the remaining time devoted to tips from Fettig, who began his 26 years with the Marine Band as a clarinet player.

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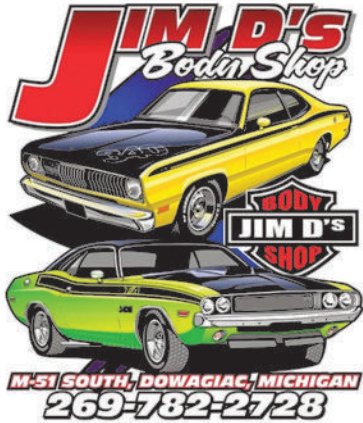
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Pansy is a sweet, playful, four month year-old tuxedo kitten with a gentle demeanor. She loves to snuggle in your lap and has a curious nature that will entertain. Pansy is looking for a loving home where she can continue to blossom and grow into a wonderful companion. She is spayed, current vaccines and FeLV-FIV negative. Reach Paws of Hope at adoptions@pawsofhope.org.

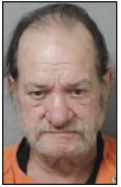


Edwardsburg man gets probation for drunk driving

By **DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — An Edwardsburg man is getting the chance to keep a felony drunk driving charge off his record after action Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Dennis Allen Somero, 65, of State-line Road in Edwardsburg, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving but can have it reduced to a second offense charge if he is successful on an 11 month probation. He was sentenced to three days in jail and \$2,613 in fines, costs and restitution.



Somero

The incident occurred Aug. 26, 2024 on U.S. 12 in Edwardsburg. Police responded to a call about a car in a ditch and found Somero and his car which had gone airborne and struck a telephone pole. His blood alcohol level was .13 which is more than the legal limit of .08.

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman noted that Somero has been to prison before but had not had any involvement with the criminal justice system since 2013. “Maybe that experience helped you change your ways,” he said.

Judge Herman noted that if Somero continues to drink and drive, he can expect to go to jail or even prison if he kills or injures someone. “I always say that I don’t care if people drink, just so they

don’t drink and drive,” he said. Judge Herman also approved reduction of sentences for three other area residents after they successfully completed their delayed sentences imposed last March.

Carla Marie Crume, 26, of State-line Road in Edwardsburg, had her third degree child abuse charge reduced to a misdemeanor after successfully completing a delayed sentence probation.

Crume and her boyfriend were both sentenced last March. The incident occurred Dec. 16, 2022 at a home in Edwardsburg. Police found their three old child suffering from a drug overdose. The girl recovered after receiving two doses of Narcan.



Crume

Friday, Crume said she was remorseful for her actions and is holding herself more accountable in terms of the people she associates with.

Judge Herman called it “another delayed sentencing that turned out with a happy ending.” He noted that Crume seemed to be a much different person than she had been a year ago.

Heather Marie Merrill, 36, of Elkhart, had pleaded no contest to driving drunk causing serious injury and had that sentence reduced to a misdemeanor. She had been given credit for one day served and \$2,088 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Aug. 17,

2023 at U.S. 12 and Gumwood in Milton Township. Friday, Merrill apologized for her actions and called her actions that day “irresponsible” and that she was grateful that the two people hurt in the incident didn’t die.



Merrill

“All the court wants is that you become a productive member of society and don’t victimize society in future,” Judge Herman said. “You’ve shown through what you’ve done that you take it seriously. You realize it will be a lifelong problem you have to address.”

Melissa Kaye Viteri, 47, of Granger, had a third offense drunk driving charge reduced to a misdemeanor after successfully completing a delayed sentencing probation.

The incident occurred Aug. 23, 2023 on Elkhart Road and M-62 in Edwardsburg.



Viteri

Judge Herman noted that Viteri had turned her life around and applauded her for her volunteer work at a soup kitchen. “You look like a different person today,” he said.

“We rarely see delayed sentences where people complete them and here we have three today that have completed their delayed sentences,” he added. “All we want is for people to be good members of society.”

Timing is everything for a transport nurse

COMMUNITY REPORT

Melissa “Lissa” (Hollis) Borders of Niles ‘03) never intended to become a nurse. She thought it was “gross.”

Today, she’s a pediatric critical care transport nurse who has been with Beacon Health System for 22 years.

Her cousin, Chris Smith, is administrative support coordinator for SMC’s Office of Academic Affairs. Another cousin, on the other side of the family, always wanted to be a nurse and worked for years as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant).

Coming out of Galien High School in 1992, “My original plan was to become a marine biologist,” Borders said. “I was going to get my prerequisites through SMC and transfer to Florida State, but I was young and ‘in love’ so that didn’t work out as planned. I worked for several years at a local credit union doing mortgages.”

Her daughter was in the NICU when she was born. Borders relied heavily on the nurses.

“They made what was by far the most difficult time of my life bearable,” she said. “When we were being discharged, one of the nurses asked me if I was a nurse. At that time I had absolutely no medical knowledge whatsoever and to this day I have no idea why she asked me that question, but it got me thinking.

“When my daughter was 3 months old, I enrolled in my first class. This time I was ready and wanted to succeed. Just in case you are wondering, my daughter is completely fine and my cousin never did go to

nursing school.”

Borders originally went to SMC straight from Galien “because I thought it was what I was ‘supposed to do,’ but soon learned it was not the right path for me at that time. I did poorly and was not dedicated so I quit after one semester. I started classes again in 2000. At that time I lived in Buchanan with my now ex-husband and two very small kids.

“Out of high school, it was close to home and I did not want to go far away. In 2000, I chose SMC because of its reputation of having one of the best nursing schools in the area. I have many friends, some who are like family, who have graduated from SMC throughout the years, and it just so happened that my high school best friend and I graduated together, but she went into a different field.”

Associate nursing at Memorial Hospital

During school, Borders worked in Memorial Hospital’s post-partum unit.

“At that time they had ‘associate nurses,’ which were basically nursing students. On the post-partum unit, I was allowed to carry my own patient load and care for healthy moms and babies. I did have an RN that I worked under should I have any questions or needs but I was considered the patient’s nurse.

“I thought this area would help prepare me for after graduation when I wanted to work as a labor and delivery nurse, however, I ended up discovering that I did not want to go into that area. So I took a position in the Intermediate Care Unit, aka the ICU step-down unit. This was



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Lissa Borders has been a pediatric critical care transport nurse who has been with Beacon Health System for 22 years.

a great floor to learn how to be a nurse. It taught me time management and critical thinking skills.

“I do wish more new nurses would take the time to develop their skills on a med/surg type unit. I left there and went to the ER for the next seven years. From there I worked in Interventional Radiology for about a year. Following that I went to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and gradually transitioned over to the pediatric critical care transport team which is where I have been for about 10 years.

Borders added her RN bachelor’s degree from Goshen College in 2011.

“A friend and co-worker decided to get her bachelor’s degree and asked if I would go with her so we could take turns driving,” she said. “We went to Goshen College one night a week for 19 months.

LAI degree provides more options

In 2023, she earned her master’s degree in nursing leadership, analytics and

innovation (LAI) from the University of Michigan.

“Obtaining my master’s degree from the U of M is the degree I am the most proud of,” Borders said. “Looking back, I wish I had gone away to college and had the full college experience but I can’t change that now. I always said that when my kids were grown I was going to obtain my master’s, so when the LAI master’s became available as an online program I jumped on it. As a lifelong Wolverine fan, I didn’t think becoming a U of M graduate was ever going to be possible.

“The LAI degree provides more options. As a nurse, innovation is near and dear to my heart and good leadership is something I have strong feelings about. I feel that the leader sets the tone of the department both negative and positive. I am wanting to find a job as an administrator or Director of Nursing (DON). My degree allows me to fit into a managerial

See **NURSE**, Page A8

OBITUARIES



Jack Herrick

April 18, 1931 -
February 8, 2025

Jack Herrick, age 93 of Burnsville, MN, and formerly of Le Sueur, MN, passed away peacefully at home on February 8, 2025. Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 1st, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Burnsville. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Pastor Dan Walters will officiate the service.

Jack Hadley Herrick was born in Denver, CO on April 18, 1931, to Melvin and Mary (Hadley) Herrick. As a young boy, Jack moved with his family to Niles, MI where the Herrick family owned and operated the Michigan Mushroom Company. Jack graduated from Niles High School in 1950 and Michigan State in 1954 earning a degree in accounting. On August 27, 1960, he married Joan Dell at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Niles. Upon the sale of the Michigan Mushroom Company to Green Giant, Jack and Joan moved to Le Sueur, MN where he worked as an accountant and later as the financial reporting manager for Green Giant/Pillsbury. He then worked as an agent for AAL (now Thrivent) for several years. Jack was very active in his church, Grace Lutheran, in Le Sueur where he was head usher, financial secretary, treasurer, and building committee chair for the fellowship hall. Jack was an avid fan of Michigan State sports, Cubs, and Twins baseball. He enjoyed golfing at the Le Sueur Country Club, played softball in his younger years, and stayed active with racquetball well into his later years.

He is remembered for his love and devotion to family, church, and sports.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sisters Clara Wienke Harper, Neva Hargreaves, brother William, wife Joan in 2020, and grandson Caleb in 2024.

He is survived by his twin sister Jane Glascott of Niles, MI, Children, Jennifer (Ron) Hesse of Long Prairie, MN, David (Dennis) Herrick of Plymouth, MN, and Sarah Herrick of Belle Plaine, MN. Grandchildren, Christina Pesta, Alyssa Kelly, Nathan Herrick, Benjamin Pudwill, Samuel Pudwill, and four Great-grandchildren.

James F. Scarpone

April 27, 1955 -
February 10, 2025

James F. Scarpone, 69, of Buchanan, passed away on Monday, February 10, 2025, at home.

Jim was born on April 27, 1955, to Marino “Gene” and Margaret (Harwood) Scarpone in Detroit, MI. He was the 2nd of seven children. In 1964 his family moved from Detroit, MI to South-



field, MI where he graduated from Southfield-Lathrup High School. He attended Hillsdale College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting in 1977, graduating summa cum laude and being awarded Outstanding Senior Man. While at Hillsdale, he met his future wife, Kimberly Sullivan.

After completing his studies, Jim was recruited by several “Big 8” Accounting firms, ultimately joining the firm of Coopers and Lybrand in Niles, Michigan. On September 17, 1977, he married Kimberly Sullivan in Buchanan.

In 1983, Jim founded the independent accounting firm of Scarpone & Co., P.C. in Niles. Over time, the company expanded geographically to St. Joseph, MI as well as expanding its portfolio to include financial and wealth management services under the umbrella of Commonwealth Financial Planners. Throughout his prominent career Jim took great pride in helping to ensure his clients were successful in their personal and professional endeavors. This personal investment led to valued and lasting relationships with clients, and many became close friends.

Jim’s professional success led him to serve on the board of several community and non-profit organizations, including the Huizenga Family Foundation and Niles Downtown Development Authority. Personally, he and his wife Kimberly were strong advocates of quiet philanthropy, supporting various organizations throughout the Michiana community.

Jim was a true son of Detroit. He was a staunch fan of Tiger baseball and the Detroit Red Wings.

Jim enjoyed playing in his fantasy “Rotisserie” baseball league, which he often won despite claiming his team “wasn’t doing too well.” He had a passion for cars, a reflection of his Detroit roots, and as a kid he and his father would walk the car lots checking out the newest models.

His love of hockey led him to coach various Irish Youth Hockey League teams. He was Head Coach of St. Joseph High School, South Bend, Indiana, Varsity Hockey program from 2005–2009, leading the team to two state championship appearances during his tenure. Jim also served on the board of governors of the North American Hockey League from 2003–2005.

Above all, Jim cherished his family. He always supported his sons in their endeavors but found his greatest joy in being a grandfather. Grumpa, as he was affectionately known, took great pride in making sure the swimming pool

See **OBITUARIES**, Page A6

Niles Daily Star

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BEAST OF THE CITY © BOB AND ALAN MARSH

WALLY

BOB AND ALAN MARSH

DEATH NOTICES

Heather Good, 43, of Hastings, passed away Wednesday, February 12, 2025. A funeral service will be held at Thornapple Valley Church on February 22, 2025, starting at 1:00PM. www.BrownFuneralHome-Niles.com

Charles “Charlie” Frank Espick, 84, of Dowagiac, Michigan, passed away on February 14, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Laurie Ann Armour, 44, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Ser-

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A4

was warm and there were copious amounts of ice cream and gummi bears on hand anytime his grandchildren came to visit.

Jim is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kim; sons, Creighton (Michelle) Scarpone of Overland Park, KS, Brendan (Janelle) Scarpone of St. Joseph, MI; grandchildren, Elise, Sophia and Ivo; siblings, Jeanne Fritch, John Scarpone, Jerold Scarpone, Joanne (Frank) Duffner and Janet (Dr. John) Robertson and Brother-in-law Charles Aylsworth.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret E. Scarpone; father, Marino “Gene” and Sharon Scarpone; as well as his sister, Jane Aylsworth and brother-in-law, Denny Fritch.

Visitation was held from 5-7 pm (EST) on Thursday, February 20, at Swem Chapel, 301 W. Front St., Buchanan, MI. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 am (EST) on Friday, February 21, 2025, St. Mark Catholic Church, 3 North 19 th St., Niles, MI. Private burial will take place at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Buchanan.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in Jim’s name can be made to the Edith Alice Sullivan Endowment at Southwestern Michigan College; Build-

ing for the Future St. Mark Parish Capital Campaign, Niles, MI or Samaritan’s Purse, Boone, NC. Those wishing to send a condolence online may do so at www.swemchapel.com.



Kimberly Brown
January 31, 1970 - February 14, 2025

Kimberly Louise Brown, 55, died peacefully Friday, February 14, 2025 in the comfort of her family’s presence.

Her life began January 31, 1970 in Chicago, Illinois, the eldest of four children of Eddie and Helen Mose.

Kimberly was a huge presence in the Village of Cassopolis. Following in the footsteps of her uncle Daniel Lee, she dedicated

her life to giving back to the youth of the community. “Miss Kim” as many knew her, had a huge heart and love for everyone. She loved her family and was proud to be a “Lee.” A godly woman, Kim would call herself, “BLESSED AND HIGHLY FAVORED.” Everyone she touched will remember her infectious smile that would light up the room.

Kimberly will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her daughter, Imani Brown; four sons, Nicholas (Emily Quinn) Davis, Damien (Devan Hillyer) Brown, Jr., Trevon Brown, Tymari (Katie Purlee) Brown; six grandsons, Adam Quinn, Corbin Davis, Trace Davis, Angelo Brown, Amir Brown, Damari Brown; her parents, Eddie and Helen Mose, Sr.; one sister, Katina (Adrian) Clabin;

two brothers, Eddie Mose, Jr., Diriki Mose; three nieces, Ky’ana Buck, Akira Mose, Zaire Mose; two nephews, D’Lan Mose, Ky’ante Buck; and one great nephew, Kalon Buck.

She was preceded in death by one son, Davon Brown; and her maternal and paternal grandparents.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, February 22, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. until time of service at 2:00 p.m. in Church of Cassopolis, 520 Pearl Street, Cassopolis.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Miss Kim be made to the Lee Foundation, in care of, www.leellc.org, Post Office Box 293, Cassopolis Michigan, 49031

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.



Mary Ann Griggs
April 22, 1921 - February 15, 2025

Mary Ann (Pachay) Griggs, 103, of Decatur, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at her home in Decatur. She was born April 22, 1921 in Mecenzef, Hungary to Andrew and Mary (Martha) Pachay.

The celebration of life service for Mary has already occurred. Arrange-

ments entrusted to Newell Chapel, Decatur 269-423-2561. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.newellchapel.com.

Mary immigrated to the United States with her mother when she was three years old, arriving at Ellis Island, NY on January 27, 1924. In May of 1938, she married John Griggs in Chicago, IL. In her younger days, she loved working in the yard; you could often find her out mowing with her push mower. She also took pride in keeping her flower beds in top notch shape. Mary was a wonderful cook and baker and enjoyed dancing to good music. But what she loved most was her family, especially her children.

Mary will be missed by her children, Jim (Cindy) Griggs, Barbara Griggs, and Susan Griggs; five grandchildren; six great grandchildren; and four great, great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, John Griggs, Sr.; her sons, John and Richard Griggs; her siblings, Andrew Pachay, and Helen Okleshen; and her parents.



Dawn Marie Glosson Polly
December 15, 1976 - February 5, 2025

Dawn Marie Glosson Polly, 48, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Wednesday, February 5, 2025, in the comfort of her family’s presence. Her life began December 15, 1976 in Niles, Michigan the second of two children.

Dawn graduated from Brandywine High School in 1996. She worked for Federal Mogul for seventeen and a half years as a quality inspector. She was a member of Berean Bible Church in South Bend where she found a loving family; especially Pastor Ray Keable, who taught her right division. Dawn loved to nurture. She spent time investing in her garden enjoying the beautiful flowers. She had a heart for cats; she took care of numerous feral cats as well as her own. She loved being a home owner, painting, upkeep and making sure it was taken care of. Dawn had a beautiful smile, and a unique laugh that was loved by many.

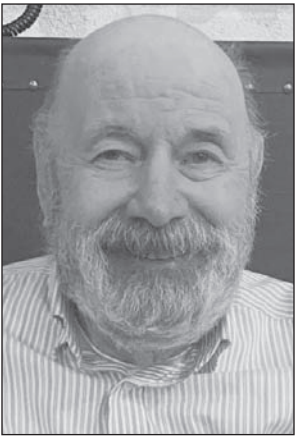
Dawn will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her parents, Gloria and Dana Sousley; sister-in-

law Ginger Polly and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and a niece and nephew. She was preceded in death by her brother, Timothy Lee Polly jr. April 9, 2024, her grandmother Gloria Havener December 22, 2023, special friends, Martina and Jill.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, March 1, 2025, 2:00 p.m. at German Township Community Center, 51755 Portage Road, South Bend, Indiana.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Dawn be made to, Heartland Hospice, 8075 Creekside Drive #120, Portage, Michigan 49024

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.



Jeryl “George” Spencer
February 26, 1939 - February 13, 2025

Jeryl “George” Spencer, 85, of Cassopolis, passed away peacefully Thursday, February 13, 2025 with his family by his side.

His life began February 26, 1939, in Cassopolis, Michigan, joining six beautiful daughters as the only son born to Hope and Murl Spencer. He had many cousins, nieces, and nephews that were a joy in his life. He also had many unofficial “adopted” children he held close to his heart.

George graduated from Cassopolis High School in 1957 and attended Michigan State University. He was very active in the Future Farmers of America and 4-H both during his youth and his children’s youth. George owned and operated his family farm for over fifty years and lived a life dedicated to family, community, and farming.

In 1972, George married Vicki Prothero and they had two children, Julie and George. George liked taking his beautiful bride out on the town, going to horse shows with Julie and watching George play sports.

George was known for his mischievous grin, good nature, and kind heart. He enjoyed farming and spending time with his family, including his grand-dogs. He liked a good steak, watching sports, being with friends, and binge watching all the NCIS shows.

George will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his daughter, Julie Spencer; his son, George Spencer; sisters, Jerilynn Spencer, Judy (Randy) Uschold; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews that were a joy in his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife; four sisters, Joan Trossen, Joyce Spencer, Jean Spencer, Janice

Daugherty; and brothers-in-law, Clyde Trossen and Jim Daugherty.

Family and friends will gather Monday, February 24, 2025 from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 am Tuesday, February 25, 2025, in the funeral home with an hour of visitation prior to the service.

If you are unable to attend the funeral service in person, we ask that you join us via live stream. The link for the live stream will be posted to the top of Mr. Spencer’s obituary on our website: wagnercares.com.

The family prefers contributions in memory of George be made to Cassopolis FFA, Cassopolis Public Schools, 22721 Diamond Cove Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.



Alice Brown
April 16, 1943 - February 14, 2025

Alice Diane (Simonson) Brown, a woman filled with love and faith, passed away on February 14, 2025, in Niles, Michigan, at the age of 81. Born on April 16, 1943, in Joliet, Illinois to the late Richard and Alice (Johnson) Simonson, Alice’s life was a testament to the power of kindness and devotion.

Alice’s journey began as a bright-eyed girl in Joliet, where she thrived in her studies and graduated from high school, laying the foundation for her lifelong pursuit of knowledge and personal growth. She married the love of her life, Ronald Brown, on August 3, 1963 and together they embarked on a life filled with joy, challenges, and unwavering partnership, recently celebrating 61 years of marriage.

As a mother and pastor’s wife, Alice poured her heart into caring for her children and serving her community. For over 15 years, she stood by her husband’s side at Belmont Bible Church in Downers Grove and later at Beacon Baptist in Niles, touching lives with her warmth and grace. Alice’s nurturing spirit extended beyond her family to all those she met, making her a cherished member of her congregation and community.

Alice’s legacy is carried on by her devoted husband, Ronald; her loving children, Amy (Alan) Carson, Ronald (Lynn) Brown, Jr., Richard (Kimberly) Brown, and Robert (Ysa) Brown; her brothers, Richard (Donna) Simonson, Eric (Sandy) Simonson, and Russell (Lonnie) Simonson; her eighteen

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CROSSWORD ANSWER
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SUDOKU ANSWER
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OBITUARIES

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grandchildren; and her twenty-five great-grandchildren, all of whom will miss her deeply.

Known for her selflessness, Alice was the epitome of a loving, faith-filled soul. She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and strived to introduce everyone she met to Jesus. She was a dedicated wife, a nurturing mother, and a doting grandmother. Her ability to make anyone feel loved and her kind-hearted nature were her defining traits. Alice possessed a rare talent in the kitchen, where she could create delectable dishes that warmed the heart as much as they pleased the palate. Her flower garden was a colorful reflection of her inner beauty, with hibiscus plants that bloomed as vibrantly as her spirit.

Alice's love extended to every corner of her life, and she will be remembered for her ability to transform the simplest moments into cherished memories. Her unwavering faith was a source of comfort and inspiration to many, and her selfless acts of kindness left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered.

In her final days, Alice was surrounded by the love and prayers of her family, who take solace in the knowledge that her legacy of love and faith will continue to flourish in the lives of those she touched. Her memory will be treasured like the most exquisite hibiscus in her beloved garden, a reminder of the beauty and resilience that defined her life.

Photos, memories, condolences may be left for Alice's family at www.Brown-FuneralHomeNiles.com

As we bid farewell to Alice Diane (Simonson) Brown, we celebrate a life that was truly well-lived. Her journey on earth may have concluded, but her spirit lives on within the hearts of her family and friends, guiding them with the same love and light she so generously shared throughout her life.

In accordance with her wishes she will be cremated and her family will be honoring and celebrating her life privately.

Alice's life will be commemorated in a service that reflects the joy and faith she embodied. She will be laid to rest in a place of tranquility, near her parents. Her story does not end here, for she has left behind an indelible mark on the tapestry of life, woven with threads of love, faith, and selflessness.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.



Glenyce Anne Haggin
September 26, 1942 - February 19, 2025

Glenyce Anne Haggin, 82, of Granger, formerly of Cassopolis, passed away in her home Wednesday, February 19, 2025 in the presence of her beloved family.

She came into this world September 26, 1942 in Dowagiac, Michigan, the second of three daughters born to Glen and Elizabeth (Townsend) Brunton. As a child she loved to read,

ride her bike, and play with neighborhood friends.

Glenyce attended the Cassopolis Public Schools, and married her high school sweetheart, Ronald "Butch" Haggin, February 12, 1960, in Dowagiac, Michigan.

Glenyce became an exemplary mother and homemaker, and she loved every moment of it. As her children became less dependent on her, Glenyce continued her education at Southwestern Michigan College and Sister Lakes Beauty Academy. She opened her own hair salon, Just Hair, in Cassopolis in 1978. It is still thriving.

Butch and Glenyce maintained homes in Cassopolis, Dowagiac and Bonita Springs, Florida. They officially retired in 2004 and settled in Granger, Indiana.

Glenyce loved her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, cooking, maintaining her homes, traveling, and Elvis. She attended Elvis' live shows many times and his music was always playing in her home and automobiles. As an avid student of history, Glenyce was a wealth of information about her county, nation, and her family. Travel usually included trips to presidential homes, libraries, battlefields, or Graceland.

Glenyce will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband of sixty-five years, Ronald "Butch" Haggin; their three children, Ronald G. (Tina) Haggin of Grand Blanc, Michigan, Elizabeth Anne (Ronald "Jamie") First of Cassopolis; and Mary Candis (John) Sims of Granger, Indiana; six grandsons, Glen (Maria) Haggin of Mountain View, California, Tyler (Robin) First, Sr. of Cassopolis, Patrick (Haley) Haggin of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Thomas (Morgan) First of Dowagiac, Jack (Jenna) Haggin of Royal Oak, Michigan, Johnny (Safia) Sims of Indianapolis; six great grandchildren, Tyler First, Jr., Lillian First, Irelynn First, Gracie First, George Haggin, Beatrice Joan Haggin; one sister, Victoria "Vicki" (Jim) Beebe of Cassopolis; one niece, Sally (Joseph) Caruso of South Bend; one great niece, Elizabeth Tietzort and one great nephew, Ty Caruso. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Mary Elizabeth Kuntz.

Family and friends will gather Sunday, February 23, 2025, from 12 Noon until time of service at 2:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis, with a friend who is family, the Reverend Erik Hutchison officiating. Glenyce will be laid to rest in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Cassopolis.

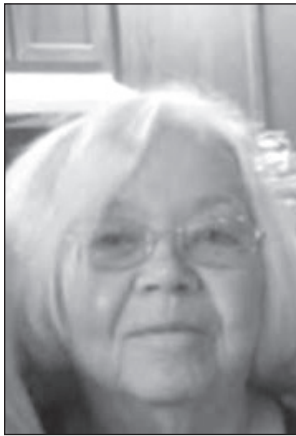
The family prefers contributions in memory of Glenyce be made to either, Center for Hospice Care, 501 Comfort Place, Mishawaka, Indiana 46545, or Cass District Library, 319 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Carolyn Joan Feathers
December 9, 1946 - February 4, 2025

Carolyn Joan Feathers, 78, of Jones, died suddenly Tuesday, February 4, 2025, while on a cruise in Costa Rica.

Her life began December 9, 1946 in South Bend, Indiana, the oldest of three children born to Arthur



and Norma Lewis, Sr. She married Samuel Jerome Feathers November 19, 1962 in South Bend, Indiana. After more than sixty years of marriage, he preceded her in death in 2023.

Carolyn was an avid Euclyre player among other card games.

Carolyn will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by two daughters, Laura (Rollin) Brenneman, Jennifer Feathers; one son, Samuel Feathers; five grandchildren, Michael (Lisa) Kauffman, Jonathan Feathers, Brittany (Derrick) Braun, Jonathan Bigler, Chelsea Penner; and two great grandchildren, Abbey Bell and Johnny Bell.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; two grandsons, Matthew Kauffman, Malachi Kauffman; one sister, Toni Raber; and one brother, Arthur Lewis, Jr.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate Carolyn's life Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fraternal Order of Eagles, #2094, 34 Sycamore Street, Niles, Michigan 49120.

Carolyn will be laid to rest beside her beloved husband in Kessington Cemetery in Mason Township, Michigan.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.



Edward Gutschenreiter
July 8, 1953 - February 12, 2025

Edward Martin Gutschenritter, age 71 years of Niles, Michigan; brother, uncle, devout Catholic, and explorer died peacefully on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at his home, unexpectedly, but of natural causes.

He was born on July 8, 1953 at the former Pawating Hospital (now Corewell Lakeland Niles) in Niles to Victor M. and June L. (Johnston) Gutschenritter, and has lived in Niles all of his life. He graduated from Niles High School, and earned a bachelors degree in environmental science from the former Ferris State College (now University) in Big Rapids, Michigan. He was employed for more than 30 years by the City of Niles Utilities Department as an operator in the wastewater treatment plant.

Ed was a lifelong member of the Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Niles, and a member of the Knights of Columbus Father Allouez Council #708 in Niles. He was also a member of the Bend of the River Conservation Club in Niles, and enjoyed hunting in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. He was a certified SCUBA diver and member of a local

diving club that sponsored annual trips to international diving locations, and was scheduled to head-out with the club on the week of his death. When younger, he was certified as a Private Aircraft Pilot, and had played hockey with a local adult league. He also played in a golf league at Brookwood Golf Course in Buchanan.

For over 35 years, Ed enjoyed annual week-long trips to New Hampshire, where he hiked, canoeed, waterskied, and spent time with many friends who he had met there. He enjoyed pets, and always had a dog, usually a Husky. His family was always close, and important.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Vic and June Gutschenritter, and by his last pet, Serge

Surviving family includes his brothers, James L. (& Shirley J.) Gutschenritter of Warner Robins, Georgia, Stephen M. (& Margaret A.) Gutschenritter of Frankfort, Illinois, and David J. (& Amy H.) Gutschenritter of Wayland, Massachusetts; and by several nieces and nephews of two generations.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Edward Gutschenritter on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Mary Catholic Church, 203 South Lincoln Street in Niles by the Rev. Christian Johnston, assisted by Deacon Roger Gregorski, both of the parish. Committal Rites will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Niles.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, February 28, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles, with Recitation of The Rosary at 7:30 p.m. Contributions in memory of Ed Gutschenritter may be made to the Christian Service Center, 322 Clay Street, Niles, Michigan 49120; <https://st-marysniles.org/ministries>. Memories and condolences may be left at: www.halbritterwickens.com

marysniles.org/ministries. Memories and condolences may be left at: www.halbritterwickens.com

Ed loved life and the world around him. He explored diving beneath the seas, hiking through the woods while hunting, and

from above as a pilot. Even his vocation protected the environment. He was faithful to the church through which he knew the Creator of all that he explored, and he loved his family; all evidence of fulfilling the command to love God and love people.

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CHOIR

Continued from page A1

But his devotion to students doesn't stop with high schoolers. Every summer, Jones spends two weeks directing 60-80 eager middle school students at Hanford High School's musical theatre camp.

During the school year, he invites middle schoolers to perform alongside his high school students during concerts, increasing their musical confidence and passion.

"Mr. Jones' legacy will span the generations," said Hanford High teacher Matthew Leggett. "He not only invites middle schoolers into the world of musical theatre, but mentors high school students into becoming coaches, several of whom have decided to become music educators."

Since Jones joined the staff at Hanford High, he not only transformed the choir program but made a lasting impact on the school's performing arts.

Jones has directed four musical productions, most recently "Hello Dolly," and served as the vocal director to several drama performances.

In 2017, he was honored with the Outstanding Music Direction award by the 5th Avenue Theatre for his work with Hanford's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific." His choirs and students have also received countless awards for their musical talents.

Despite such recognitions, Jones' focus stays on his students — something noticed by his colleagues, students and their families.

"Mr. Jones knows how to form meaningful connections with his students," says Hanford High parent Katie Geldmacher. "He has been a major contributor in building my children's confidence, teaching them the value of hard work and expanding their musical skills and knowledge."

His Crystal Apple Award, presented March 7 in Pasco, is given to teachers in and around the Tri-Cities.

The award honors educators who have a positive impact on the lives and futures of students. Each district may nominate one teacher to receive the award each year.

Jones graduated from Niles High School in 2000, so David Carew's predecessor, Dr. Robert Briggs, who composed SMC's Alma Mater, was his director for Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Center Stage, the show choir.

"I started singing and working with Dave Carew in 2007 when I started teaching adjunct at SMC. My parents were able to pay for community college, and SMC was close to home. I got my bachelor's degree in choral music education at Central Michigan University and I also have a master's in choral music education from Central Washington University," Jones said.

Jones taught part-time for SMC for four years, teaching voice, directing the show choir and choreographing the musicals.

"When it was time to look for a fulltime teaching job," Jones said, "I was picky about where I applied, and there weren't a lot of good options in Michigan at the time, so I looked all over the country."

"I honestly have no plans to even visit Michigan again," Jones said. "My parents and my wife's parents have both moved to Florida, along with my wife's brother and his family."

"SMC was my home for many years, both as a student and as a teacher. I made some awesome friends that I still keep in touch with and had some awesome teachers who really made an impact in my life," he said.

Jones lives in Richland with his wife, Rebecca, whom he met at SMC; two daughters, Anastazy, 6; Amelia, 5; a yellow Lab, Beau; and black cat, Oso.

In his spare time, Jones loves to read.

"I have read the Harry Potter series numerous times. My favorite author is Brandon Mull (Fablehaven and Beyonders series.)"

Reminded of the Nathan's-style hot dog-eating contest that was the centerpiece of Campus Bash when he was a student, Jones not only remembered it, he admitted he finished third.

"I needed ketchup," he laughed.

AWARD

Continued from page A1

WWTV-TV in Traverse City. The news segment featuring Cornelius will air this evening.

"Mr. Cornelius' ability to build relationships with his students and engage them in new courses is a testament to his commitment to provide unique opportunities through education," said Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli. "His dedication to his community is admirable and makes him very deserving of this award."

Cornelius was attracted to a career in education because of his desire to have a career that's rewarding and fulfilling.

"I wanted a career that was rewarding and fulfilling. Teaching has allowed me the opportunity to positively impact the lives of kids and to build relationships with families."

Cornelius was nominated for the award by a former student.

"Dustin Cornelius is an outstanding educator in my community. Dustin

has improved our community in several ways over the past few years he has been at Niles High School. For example, he started a fundraiser in our school called "Socktober" where we collect socks for churches and shelters near us. One year we collected over 5,000 socks, which is incredible. In addition to Socktober, he has brought our community closer and has helped our school spirit stay alive by hosting a community pep rally at the beginning of the year, creating our student section "Niles Noise," and he DJs at multiple events for our school. He took time to help form a new Speech and Media Production course on top of the English classes he teaches.

"Overall, Dustin, or Corn as we like to call him, has been an outstanding community member, educator, and mentor. He has been the most influential teacher I have ever had. However, it's not just the activities that he puts on that makes him great, he also is very compassionate, funny, and many other things. He always makes the room full of laughter, joy, and happiness. Cracking jokes, telling stories, breaking out into song in the middle of a conversation, and being kind is what

he's known for. He cares for not only his students, but also his colleagues, and his entire community. He makes a difference every single day and that deserves recognition."

Cornelius earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University. He has been an educator for 15 years, the last four in his current position.

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

RALLY

Continued from page A1

changes.

The documentation requirement would apply to all registration methods, including mail-in forms and updates made at state departments of motor vehicles.

If enacted, demonstrators in attendance Monday believe the SAVE Act would disenfranchise millions of

U.S. citizens who don't have proof of citizenship readily available. The SAVE Act could make it difficult for married women, as well as others in the population, to exercise their right to vote if their married name does not match their birth certificate name.

"This actually does restrict a lot of voting, especially absentee voting, which I love because I can sit down at my kitchen table and actually read the proposals, see what they actually say, look up those

people that are running for office that perhaps I've been unfamiliar with, especially like the judges, the school boards, that kind of thing," said Karen Kemp, who attended Monday's demonstration. "I can call a neighbor and say 'do you know what this proposal says' and stuff. The documentation being more strict is very difficult for a lot of people to get and there's probably not a lot of married women in this country whose birth certificate and driver's license name match. It has

a lot of things in there that keep those of us who are legal voters from voting.

While proponents of the bill believe it will protect the integrity of future US elections, Kemp believes the effort will suppress voters.

"There's no reason to have it," she said. "It's to stop a problem that does not exist. It's just to make you angry about something that there's no reason to be angry about."

A letter written on behalf of concerned Congressional District 5 Constituents was sent to Walberg's office.

PAY

Continued from page A1

being left in the street. Residents were

encouraged to let the village know about continuing problems so the village could contact Borden Waste-Away Service regarding service issues.

The Village Council will meet to discuss the upcoming budget one last time on Monday, March 10th at 6 p.m.

A public hearing regarding the budget will take place during the next regular board meeting on Monday, March 17th at the Edwardsburg Village Hall. The regular meeting will begin at 6 p.m., with the public hearing starting at 6:15 p.m.

NURSE

Continued from page A4

position, like a unit manager, director, DON or administrator. I am also qualified to work in informatics, however that is not a field that interests me. I am hoping to find a job working with the very young or very old."

Her 22 years at Beacon don't include a seven-month period when she left to become a home infusion nurse.

units, provide IV assistance throughout the hospital and respond to all pediatric emergencies throughout the hospital including the ER

"When a patient needs to be transferred to our facility, we are dispatched to go get them. When we get there, we assess the patient and can provide any care needed to stabilize for transport. We have protocols we are allowed to follow for care and if needed, we will communicate with the pediatric intensivist. Our transports can be to another hospital 15 minutes away or two hours away.

"When a patient requires resources that Beacon is unable to provide, we transport them to larger facilities in Indy, Chicago, Fort Wayne, even Ann Arbor. We average about two transports a day which, as you can imagine, can be anywhere from an hour to eight hours from start to finish. We are allowed to sleep if we are not needed, but we must always be ready to transport a kiddo at any time within our 24-hour shift. In our downtime, we do have required education to complete and occasionally have PR events we attend."

Borders taught at SMC as an adjunct in 2011-12 under Janie Stephenson.

"I was working fulltime in the ER at that time, which allowed me to schedule around clinical days with students. During that period, my family went through a lot of changes and I felt like I needed to be home more, so I had to stop teaching and even change jobs, going to IR so I would be home every night.

"Teaching as an adjunct required a lot of time outside of the hospital and I needed that time back to focus on my family. I taught the second semester med/surg at Lakeland in St. Joe.

oners. I provided them with a schedule of my availability along with trying to cover times when others were unavailable," she said. "I attended a 40-hour Medicolegal Death Investigators Course with a required certification test and annual educational hours.

"Our nine-member coroner team worked in pairs of two at scenes so I would meet my partner at a death scene and our job was to establish the cause and manner of death, identification and body removal for the decedent. A death scene can be anywhere, at any time, and involve anything, as you can imagine. This job required a lot of investigative skills. Our team worked well together because it was made up of retired police officers, a mortician, paramedics and nurses. We were all able to provide the needed insight into our chosen specialties. I maintained my certification until this June, when I decided I would no longer be needing it.

"This job was by far the most interesting job I have had. It allowed me to see things from a different perspective which I believe allowed me to apply an additional amount of empathy to patients and families. In Indiana, the coroner is an elected position. The man I worked under lost the election, which meant our team lost their jobs as well."

Her husband is a South Bend fireman/paramedic who recently achieved his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. They have been married for 12 years and have four children between them.

"My son is 26, served in the Army for 5 ½ years, and now lives in Myrtle Beach attending Coastal Carolina University and studying marine biology — I live vicariously through him!. My daughter is 24 and married to a great man who is a Notre Dame police officer. They have a soon-to-be 1-year-old baby girl who is the light of our lives. What everyone says about becoming a grandpar-

ent is true beyond measure! My oldest stepson is almost 21 and attends IU Bloomington studying criminal psychology. He graduated from the IU police academy. His ultimate goal is to become an FBI profiler. My youngest stepson is 17 and has yet to figure out what he wants to become. He has another year before he finishes high school so he has a little bit of time. My mother lives within 10 minutes of us and she is a large part of our lives. I also have family scattered throughout the Niles/Buchanan/Galien/Three Oaks area. My husband, who is from New Carlisle, likes to joke that I am related to all of southwest Michigan because we can't go anywhere without running into one of my relatives. I wouldn't have it any other way!"

"Besides spending every possible second with my granddaughter, my husband and I have a travel trailer and love to camp," Borders said. "We have a group we go camping with every summer. Next year we are expanding our borders and all going to Mexico together! I also like to travel when I can get away. My husband and I went to Punta Cana (Dominican Republic) in February and my mom and I went down to Myrtle Beach in May to see my son. My mom, godmother and I are also going to Texas in September to visit a family friend. It's always nice to get away."

Most of her SMC memories involve stress.

"Nursing school is HARD, as I am sure you have heard before," Borders said. "During nursing school, I had two very small kids, a husband and a mortgage, so I didn't have a lot of extra time to spend on campus.

"My favorite aspect of nursing school at SMC is that I met my soul sister there. We are still best friends today. I finished school a semester before she did so I was able to attend her nursing pinning and pin her. That is a memory I will never forget."

Enjoy a lunch & a show in 2025!

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3-27-25 - Jersey Boys
4-24-25 - Church Basement Ladies
5-21-25 - Nunsense
9-18-25 - Heartbreak Hotel
11-19-25 - The Naughty List

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WRESTLING

Niles’ Rucker, Dowagiac’s Chapman win regional wrestling titles

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — Niles’ Sam Rucker and Dowagiac’s Cal Chapman powered their way to regional wrestling championships Saturday, Feb. 15.

Rucker and Chapman were dominant in the Division 2 and Division 3 individual regional wrestling championships at Gull Lake and Olivet, respectively.

Rucker (33-1) had a pin, a major decision and then beat Three Rivers’ Louis Smith 4-1 in overtime at 175 pounds. Chapman (38-2) had a pin, a decision and then pinned Brooklyn Columbia Central’s

Dylan Boone in the 285-pound title match.

Three other area wrestlers were state qualifiers. Hayden Groth of Dowagiac (36-8) was third at 215 and Cameron White of Dowagiac (35-14) and Leland Payne of Buchanan (43-4) were fourth at 144 and 157, respectively.

DIVISION 2 At Gull Lake Quarterfinals

165: Jayce Curtis (Middleville Thornapple Kellogg d. Cale Myers (Edwardsburg) 17-10.

175: Sam Rucker (Niles) p. Josh

Corts (Jackson Parma Western) 2:36.

Semifinals

175: Sam Rucker (Niles) m.d. over Tyler Block (Hamilton) 15-7.

Consolation Round 1

165: Titan Parker (Jackson Parma Western) d. Cale Myers (Edwardsburg) 7-5.

First Place

175: Sam Rucker (Niles) d. Louis Smith (Three Rivers) 4-1 (OT).



See REGIONAL, Page B2 Sam Rucker

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

WRESTLING

Niles’ Ward repeats as regional champion

COMMUNITY REPORT

PORTAGE — Maddison Ward will get a chance at becoming a repeat state wrestling champ.

Ward won a state title last year at Brandywine. And after transferring to Niles this year, she has been dominant so far in the past seasons.

Running her record to 27-0, Ward earned two pins and then scored a 21-6 technical fall over MacKenzie Maka of Allegan in the 155-pound championship match at the Division 2 girls individual regional wrestling championships Sunday at Portage Northern.

In six postseason matches so far, Ward has posted four pins and two technical falls.

One other area wrestler reached the championship match. Dowagiac’s Cinthia Villegas (27-7) lost a 13-0 major decision to Harleigh Toepfer of Portage Northern at 145 pounds.

Two other area girls qualified for state with Buchanan’s Kadence Ashe (23-6) and Niles’ Kloe Kiggins (26-9) each finishing fourth at 135 and 115, respectively.

DIVISION 2 At Portage Northern Quarterfinals

110: Jocelyn Saucedo (South Haven) p. Alexandra Jijon (Dowagiac) 1:03.

115: Desarae Mathis (Hastings) p. Kloe Kiggins (Niles) 1:51.

135: Kadence Ashe (Buchanan) p. Amber Knight

(South Haven) 1:20.

145: Cinthia Villegas (Dowagiac) p. Addison Gregory (Otsego) :51.

155: Maddison Ward (Niles) p. Peyton Federau (Lakewood) :39.

Consolation Round 1

110: Ariel Crawley (Bellevue) t.f. over Alexandra Jijon (Dowagiac) 17-2.

115: Kloe Kiggins (Niles) p. Sailor Diehl (Gull Lake) 1:45.

Semifinals

135: Dawn DeGood (Allegan) d. Kadence Ashe (Buchanan) 7-3.

145: Cinthia Villegas (Dowagiac) p. Naomi Grummet (Hastings) 3:14.

155: Maddison Ward (Niles) p. Kady Sherrill (Paw Paw) 3:31.

Consolation Semifinals

115: Kloe Kiggins (Niles) d. Sarah Bennett (St. Joseph) 13-10.

135: Kadence Ashe (Buchanan) p. Addison Lynch (River Valley) 1:22.

First Place

145: Harleigh Toepfer (Portage Northern) m.d. over Cinthia Villegas (Dowagiac) 13-0.

155: Maddison Ward (Niles) t.f. over Mackenzie Maka (Allendale) 21-6.

Third Place

115: Emma Baker (Lakeshore) p. Kloe Kiggins (Niles) 1:28.

135: Samantha Bonoevetz (Otsego) p. Kadence Ashe (Buchanan) 1:25.



Madison Ward

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

BASKETBALL

EXPERIENCED WHITE PIGEON HOLDS OFF CASSOPOLIS 69-52

By Scott Hassinger

Leader Publications Contributor

WHITE PIGEON — Even though it didn’t translate into a win, Cassopolis’ boys basketball coach Charles Superzynski liked the fight he saw out of his Rangers in Wednesday’s 69-52 Southwest 10 Conference loss at White Pigeon.

Cassopolis falls to 10-7 for fourth place in the Southwest 10 and 12-8 overall. White Pigeon improves to 13-4 in the league for third and 15-6 overall.

With only Friday’s regular-season and league finale at Centerville remaining before next week’s Division 3 district

tournament at home, Superzynski feels his team is turning the corner and starting to play its best basketball.

“White Pigeon transitioned well off some of our misses in the first half. We’re a three-point shooting team and we’re in trouble if we don’t get back on long rebounds. I thought we did a much better job though in the second half of making shots, attacking the basket and getting their big guy (Wesley Roberts) in foul trouble with four early in the fourth quarter,” Supercyznski said.

The opening eight minutes saw the two sides trade buckets for most of the period with White Pigeon managing a

narrow 15-12 lead.

White Pigeon put the defensive clamps on Cassopolis in the second quarter by limiting its guests to just three points. Meanwhile the Chiefs scored 16 points to build themselves a 31-15 halftime advantage.

Cassopolis came out on fire in the third, draining five of its nine three pointers on the night in that span. The Rangers’ good marksmanship from outside helped them outscore the Chiefs 23-15 in the stanza and whittle its deficit to 46-38 entering the fourth quarter.

Cassopolis managed to slice its deficit down to just four, 49-45, with a little over five

See EXPERIENCED, Page B2

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Cassopolis sophomore center Aarenn Buck-Hooper (11) scores from underneath the basketball in the second half against White Pigeon Wednesday.

CROSS COUNTRY

Edwardsburg’s Johnson signs with SMC cross country

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Maguire Johnson of Edwardsburg High School has signed his NJCAA Letter of Intent to run cross country for Coach Zac Sartori and the Roadrunners. Johnson will also compete in track and field for SMC.

Coach Sartori said, “I’m very excited to have Maguire joining the team. He is an excellent runner and his commitment to improving himself will be a great benefit to our program. Maguire is not only a strong runner, but a great student as well and I’m looking forward to working with him next year as he continues to prepare for bigger and better things to come!”

Coach Leto of Edwardsburg added, “Maguire believes anything is possible when he starts a



race. I’m happy for him and he is very deserving of this opportunity!”

Johnson is the third member of SMC’s 2025 Men’s Cross Country recruiting class, joining Tyler Caruso of Bangor and Carlos

Ruiz-Garcia of Hartford.

Student-athletes interested in competing on any of SMC’s nine intercollegiate teams as a Roadrunner should complete the Recruiting Form at <https://smcroadrunners.com/landing/index>

DAILY DATA

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BUCHANAN 40, DOWAGIAC 29
At Buchanan
DOWAGIAC (29): Claire Hess 9, Marlie Carpenter 8, Zabrina Shivers 0, Evie Lock 2, Olivia McIntosh 2, Bree Campbell 6, Jamela Bonds 2. Totals 11 2-10 29.
BUCHANAN (40): Maddie Young 4, Aspen Berry 4, Justyce Cashier 9, Katie Ailes 10, Alyssa Carson 8, Akirrah Robinson 5. Totals 15 9-15 40.
Dowagiac 6 10 18 29
Buchanan 6 19 36 40
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 5 (Hess 3, Campbell 2), Buchanan 1 (Robinson 1). Total fouls: Dowagiac 14, Buchanan 18. Records: Dowagiac 5-13 (2-6 Lakeland Conference), Buchanan 10-8 (3-4 Lakeland Conference).

BOYS BASKETBALL
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN 50, BRANDYWINE 48
At Niles
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN (50): Ty Johnson 4, Ethan Eggert 2, Micah Herbrt 7, Anthony Ealey 2, Thor Swsher 3, Isaiah Gill 11, Conner Olson 21. Totals 19 9-15 50.
BRANDYWINE (48): J.J. Henry 4, Nylen Goins 25, Elijhia Burt 8, Will Hubbard 3, Ryder Richard 3, Emerson Gogley 3, Jordan Hester 2. Totals 18 4-7 48.
Michigan Lutheran 11 27 39 50
Brandywine 8 13 31 48
3-point baskets: Michigan Lutheran 3 (Olson 2, Johnson 1), Brandywine 8 (Goins 6, Richard 1, Gogley 1). Total fouls: Michigan Lutheran 13, Brandywine 14. Records: Michigan Lutheran 15-3, Brandywine 11-9
BOYS BASKETBALL

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

BUCHANAN 49, DOWAGIAC 33
At Dowagiac
BUCHANAN (49): Tyler Frame 5, Preston Payne 6, Liam McBeth 8, Ari Johnson 0, Karmine Brown 18, Jake Franklin 7, Logan Wiggins 2, Will Carson 0, Owen Thompson 3. Totals 18 5-19 49.
DOWAGIAC (33): Jamal Williams 7, Lamone Moore Jr. 2, Braylon Wade 3, Devin Rock 3, Isaiah Fitchett 9, Loren Bowen 2, Chase Frazier 0, Kaleb Smith 0, Artie Ruiz 0, Riley McCaffery 7. Totals 13 4-7 33.
Buchanan 22 34 46 49
Dowagiac 2 27 33
3-point baskets: Buchanan 8 (Brown 3, McBeth 2, Franklin 2, Payne 1), Dowagiac 3 (Wade 1, Rock 1, Fitchett 1). Total fouls: Buchanan 12, Dowagiac 18. Records: Buchanan 14-6 (2-5 Lakeland Conference), Dowagiac 1-17 (0-8 Lakeland Conference).

EDWARDSBURG 69, NILES 58
At Niles
EDWARDSBURG (69): Joe Shively 3, Brody Schimpa 15, Conor Solarek 17, Blaise Crist 19, Michael Wright 3, Reed Gates 9, Matt Anders 3. Totals 26 12-15 69.
NILES (58): Quinton King Jr. 2, Brayden Favors 9, Andre Wells 14, Brenden Ols-

en 15, Acie Kirtdoll 0, Derek Hill Jr. 0, Donovan Williams 18. Totals 22 12-15 58.
Edwardsburg 18 39 57 69
Niles 11 28 37 58
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 5 (Shively 1, Schimpa 1, Solarek 1, Crist 1, R Gates 1), Niles 2 (Wells 1, Williams 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Edwardsburg 15, Niles 19 (Favors). Records: Edwardsburg 14-6 (8-5 Wolverine Conference), Niles 10-10 (8-5 Wolverine Conference).

GIRLS BASKETBALL
CASSOPOLIS 58, HARTFORD 15
At Hartford
HARTFORD (15): Graci Kinchen 0, Yajaira Reyna 4, M. Dela Rosa 4, Rebecca Johnson 1, Savannah Mullins 2, Sianelli Rodriguez 2, C. Morsaw 2. Totals 7 1-16 15
CASSOPOLIS (58): Mackenzie Boyer 4, Janayla Franklin 13, JaMya Hart 5, Madalynn Yakel 4, Alaina Grissow 1, Nola Hawkins 0, Madison Nelson 13, Ava Christopher 2, Ryley Bowsher 16. Totals 20 13-22 58.
Hartford 5 9 11 15
Cassopolis 11 39 56 58
3-point baskets: Hartford 0, Cassopolis 5 (Nelson 2, Boyer 1, Franklin 1, Hart 1). Total fouls: Hartford 17, Cassopolis 14. Records: Hartford 2-16 (2-12 Southwest 10), Cassopolis 10-5 (9-3 Southwest 10).

NILES 48, EDWARDSBURG 45 (OT)
At Niles
EDWARDSBURG (45): Shelby Laubach 3, Ella Zache 10, Maddie Pobuda 11, Kourtney Zarycki 6, Mya Eberlein 4, Kya Shier 11. Totals 16 6-12 45.
NILES (38): Jessie Thornton 20, Tanaya Brown 14, Maddie Zache 5, Kayla Kiggins 0, Ari Gerrits 9. Totals 17 8-15 48.
Edwardsburg 10 12 28 38 45
Niles 10 22 32 38 48
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 7 (Pobuda 3, Zache 2, Shier 2), Niles 6 (Thornton 4, Brown 1, Zache 1). Total fouls: Edwardsburg 13, Niles 13. Records: Edwardsburg 11-7 (6-6 Wolverine Conference), Niles 5-14 (1-11 Wolverine Conference).
Highlights: Niles snapped an 18-game Wolverine Conference losing streak. Thornton scored six points in the overtime period for Niles.

MONDAY, JAN. 17

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BRANDYWINE 70, GULL LAKE 38
At Niles
GULL LAKE (38): Jadie Bagley 1, Kenadie Schuemann 7, Caroline Clancy 5, Addison Woodrow 9, Ali Bates 12, Makenna Stoneburner 2, Ruby Wartella 2. Totals 12 14-20 38.
BRANDYWINE (70): Adeline Gill 20, Karleigh Byrd 5, Adelyn Drotosz 3, Ireland Prenkert 3, Lily Gill 17, Miley Young 19, Makenna Price 3, Niyah Mason 0. Totals 24 13-21 70.
Gull Lake 10 14 30 38
Brandywine 17 34 52 80
3-point baskets: Gull Lake 0, Brandywine 8 (L. Gill 3, Drotosz 1, Byrd 1, Prenkert 1, Price 1, Young 1). Total fouls: Gull

Lake 16, Brandywine 16. Records: Gull Lake 8-9, Brandywine 18-0

BUCHANAN 49, MICHIGAN LUTHERAN 25
At Buchanan
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN (25): Aubrey Barnes 2, Addy Wetzel 2, Allie Leshner 2, Madison Zehner 2, Katherine Bielke 6, Maddie Plocher 1, Mya Lemke 2, Emma Sysak 8. Totals 11 3-5 25.
BUCHANAN (49): Caitlyn Horvath 2, Maddie Young 12, Aspen Berry 9, Evyn Pruett 2, Justyce Cashier 15, Katie Ailes 9. Totals 17 10-11 49.
Michigan Lutheran 6 9 19 25
Buchanan 12 26 37 49
3-point baskets: Michigan Lutheran 0, Buchanan 5 (Cashier 2, Young 2, Berry 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Michigan Lutheran 13, Buchanan 10 (Ailes). Records: Michigan Lutheran 7-11, Buchanan 11-8

BOYS BASKETBALL
NILES 70, DOWAGIAC 29
At Dowagiac
NILES (70): Quinton King Jr. 5, Brayden Favors 20, Andre Wells 19, Branden Olsen 18, Acie Kirtdoll 0, Ceon Kirtdoll 2, Bryce Zache 2, Donovan Williams 4. Totals 26 9-10 70.
DOWAGIAC (29): Jamal Williams 2, Braylon Wade 6, Devin Rock 8, Isaiah Fitchett 2, Kaleb Smith 2, Loren Bowen 0, Chase Frazier 5, Riley McCaffery 4. Totals 10 6-10 29.
Niles 13 40 59 70
Dowagiac 8 20 23 29
3-point baskets: Niles 9 (Wells 3, Olsen 3, Favors 2, King Jr. 1), Dowagiac 3 (Wade 2, Rock 1). Total fouls: Niles 10, Dowagiac 9. Records: Niles 11-10, Dowagiac 1-18.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

BOYS BASKETBALL
BUCHANAN 55, BENTON HARBOR 49
At Benton Harbor
BUCHANAN (55): Tyler Frame 15, Preston Payne 2, Liam McBeth 8, Karmine Brown 19, Jake Franklin 3, Logan Wiggins 8. Totals 17 18-27 55.
BENTON HARBOR (49): Latrell Johnson 9, Jkwon Lewis 11, Avion Wilson 6, Zamier Clayton 8, Torey Wilson 2, Kasean Hobbs 6, Dameon Wilson 1, Damonee McBrie 6. Totals 16 11-20 49
Buchanan 11 28 40 55
Benton Harbor 20 27 32 49
3-point baskets: Buchanan 3 (Brown 2, Wiggins 1), Benton Harbor 6 (Lewis 3, Johnson 2, Hobbs 1Total fouls: Buchanan 22, Benton Harbor 26 (Clayton, Hobbs, McBride). Records: Buchanan 15-6 (3-5 Lakeland Conference), Benton Harbor 14-7 (6-2 Lakeland Conference).
Highlight: Buchanan hit on 13 of 18 free throws in the fourth quarter, including 8-of-8 by McBeth.

LAKESHORE 45, EDWARDSBURG 44
At Stevensville
EDWARDSBURG (44): Joe Shively 8, Brody Schimpa 25, Maverick 2, Conor Solarek 2, Blaise Crist 2, Michael

Wright 0, Ayden Billingsley 2, Reed Bates 1, Matt Anders 2. Totals 18 2-6 44.
LAKESHORE (45): Brady Harris 0, Owen Timmons 5, Lane Fry 11, Luke Heyn 12, Garrett Thomas 4, Brayden Holok 8, Alex Toothman 5. Totals 18 8-13 45.
Edwardsburg 8 17 28 44
Lakeshore 12 21 35 45
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 6 (Schimpa 4, Shively 2), Lakeshore 1 (Thomas 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Edwardsburg 17 (Schimpa), Lakeshore 9. Records: Edwardsburg 14-7, Lakeshore 10-8

BERRIEN SPRINGS 53, BRANDYWINE 36
At Berrien Springs
BRANDYWINE (36): Nylen Goins 12, Maddox Carpenter 3, Elijha Burt 13, Will Hubbard 0, Ryder Richard 8, Emerson Gogley 0. Totals 14 1-2 36.
BERRIEN SPRINGS (53): Joe Chimwamchere 2, Ethan McCrary 11, Micah McFarland 7, J.J. Frakes 10, Alex O'Dell 8, Brody Brewer 15. Totals 21 7-11 53.
Brandywine 19 26 36
Berrien Springs 7 22 36 53
3-point baskets: Brandywine 7 (Burt 3, Richard 2, Goins 1, Carpenter 1), Berrien Springs 4 (McCrary 3, Brewer 1). Total fouls: Brandywine 10, Berrien Springs 12. Records: Brandywine 11-10 (4-4 Lakeland Conference), Berrien Springs 17-4 (7-1 Lakeland Conference).
Highlight: Berrien Springs clinches outright Lakeland Conference title.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
EDWARDSBURG 45, ST. JOSEPH 32
At Edwardsburg
ST. JOSEPH (32): Megan Painter 0, Tess Kapelke 2, Jillian Conybeare 5, Lauer Wright 16, Alana Razor 2, Ava Rommel 7. Totals 11 7-9 32.
EDWARDSBURG (45): Shelby Laubach 4, Ella Zache 7, Maddie Pobuda 16, Kourtney Zarycki 5, Kya Shier 13. Totals 16 8-12 45.
St. Joseph 6 17 25 32
Edwardsburg 11 20 34 45
3-point baskets: St. Joseph 3 (Wright 2, Conybeare 1), Edwardsburg 5 (Shier 3, Pobuda 2). Total fouls: St. Joseph 15, Edwardsburg 10. Records: St. Joseph 13-3, Edwardsburg 12-7

PAW PAW 82, BUCHANAN 75
At Buchanan
PAW PAW (82): Grace Mitchell 21, Stella Shaefer 5, A.J. Rickli 42, Jordan Zent 6, Kailey Nicholas 1, Meceazie Allen 7. Totals 28 22-34 82.
BUCHANAN (75): Caitlin Horvath 16, Maddie Young 19, Aspen Berry 2, Evyn Pruett 3, Justyce Cashier 10, Katie Ailes 7, Alyssa Carson 18. Totals 25 14-19 75.
Paw Paw 23 42 62 82
Buchanan 19 41 59 75
3-point baskets: Paw Paw 4 (Mitchell 3, Shaefer 1), Buchanan 11 (Carson 4, Horvath 3, Young 3, Cashier 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Paw Paw 15, Buchanan 24 (Young, Ailes). Records: Paw Paw 15-4, Buchanan 11-9

LAWRENCE 49, CASSOPOLIS 43
At Cassopolis
LAWRENCE (49): Hailey Camp 16, Col-

leen McCaw 4, Leslie Reed 2, Brooklyn Remelts 14, Carolina Mancera 13. Totals 19 6-8 49.
CASSOPOLIS (43): Mackenzie Boyer 0, Janayla Franklin 2, JaMya Hart 2, Madalynn Yakel 3, Maliyah Flowers 3, Madison Nelson 14, Ryley Bowsher 19. Totals 16 9-21 43.
Lawrence 5 16 33 49
Cassopolis 6 14 28 43
3-point baskets: Lawrence 5 (Remelts 4, Camp 1), Cassopolis 2 (Bowsher 2). Total fouls (fouled out): Lawrence 18 (McCaw), Cassopolis 13. Records: Lawrence 12-6 (9-5 Southwest 10), Cassopolis 10-6 (9-4 Southwest 10).

NILES 46, MATTAWAN 23
At Mattawan
NILES (46): Jessie Thornton 21, Tanaya Brown 15, Maddie Zache 0, Kayla Kiggins 6, Ari Gerrits 4. Totals 14 15-30 46.
MATTAWAN (23): Caitlin Ryan 11, Anna Schauer 2, Claire Winans 2, Chloe Nellenbach 3, Taylor Bernardi 2, Charlotte Douglass 3. Totals 8 4-9 23.
Niles 19 26 32 46
Mattawan 5 9 17 23
3-point baskets: Niles 3 (Kiggins 2, Thornton 1), Mattawan 3 (Ryan 2, Nellenbach 1). Total fouls: Niles 8, Mattawan 18. Records: Niles 6-14, Mattawan 3-17

LAKESHORE 48, DOWAGIAC 8
At Dowagiac
LAKESHORE (48): Megan Wurster 5, Preslee Perkins 2, Lily Kleiman 2, Paige Lies 14, Emily Lockman 14, Avery Vroon 9, Sydney Thomas 2. Totals 22 3-6 48.
DOWAGIAC (8): Claire Hess 0, Marlie Carpenter 0, Zabrana Shivers 4, Evie Lock 1, Bree Campbell 3, Olivia McIntosh 0. Totals 3 1-4 8.
Lakeshore 23 33 45 48
Dowagiac 3 3 5 8
3-point baskets: Lakeshore 1 (Wurster 1), Dowagiac 1 (Campbell 1). Total fouls: Lakeshore 7, Dowagiac 8. Records: Lakeshore 13-3, Dowagiac 5-14

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

BOYS BASKETBALL
WHITE PIGEON 69, CASSOPOLIS 52
At White Pigeon
CASSOPOLIS (52): Jaylen Pratt 8, Lucas Williams 15, Trevon Peterson-Evans 16, Ayden Gillam 6, Tyson West 0, Aarenn Buck-Hooper 4, Jamiere Pratt 3. Totals 21 11-52.
WHITE PIGEON (69): Mikhi Singleton 9, Josh Davidson 31, Jordan Pisco 9, Brody Block 4, Ty Strawser 6, Wes Roberts 10. Totals 24 17-20 69.
Cassopolis 12 15 38 52
White Pigeon 15 31 46 69
3-point baskets: Cassopolis 9 (Williams 3, Jaylen Pratt 2, Gillam 2, Peterson-Evans 1, Jamiere Pratt 1), White Pigeon 4 (Davidson 4). Total fouls: Cassopolis 13, White Pigeon 9. Records: Cassopolis 12-8 (10-7 Southwest 10), White Pigeon 15-6 (13-4 Southwest 10).
Highlight: Davidson scored 25 of his 31 points in the second half.

REGIONAL

Continued from page B1

DIVISION 3
At Olivet
Quarterfinals
113: Jacob Byrd (Adrian Madison) p. Markus Ottinger (Dowagiac) 3:51.
120: C.J. Miller (Williamston) t.f. over Holden Carrington (Buchanan) 20-2.
138: Aiden Durham (Grass Lake) t.f. over Aaron York (Buchanan) 17-2.
144: Cameron White (Dowagiac) m.d. over Hunter Czubachowski (Brooklyn Columbia Central) 10-0.
157: Leland Payne (Buchanan) m.d. over Nicholas Moore (Adrian Madison) 16-5.
215: Hayden Groth (Dowagiac) d. Joe LaSalle (Olivet) 7-4; Dallas Smith (Napoleon) d. Lucas Zeiger (Buchanan) 4-0.
285: Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) p. Jamarcus Goodloe (Napoleon) :20; Anthony

Heinritz (Williamston) p. Drew McKee (Brandywine) 1:42.

Semifinals
144: Caden Brown (Hopkins) d. Cameron White (Dowagiac) 4-1.
157: Hawk Harding (Williamston) d. Leland Payne (Buchanan) 8-5.
215: John Petersen (Hillsdale) p. Hayden Groth (Dowagiac) 2:32.
285: Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) d. Anthony Heinritz (Williamston) 7-3.

Consolation Round 1
113: Sullivan Morgan (Al-

legan) m.d. over Markus Ottinger (Dowagiac) 10-1.
120: Keegan Gray (Onsted) p. Holden Carrington (Buchanan) 1:46.
138: Luke Wedge (Allegan) p. Aaron York (Buchanan) 2:37.
215: Trever Gritzmaker (Adrian Madison) p. Lucas Zeiger (Buchanan) 2:44.
285: Jamarcus Goodloe (Napoleon) m.d. over Drew McKee (Brandywine) 16-3.

Consolation semifinals
144: Cameron White (Dowagiac) d. Zayden Rowland (South Haven) 4-2.
157: Leland Payne (Bu-

chanan) p. Bryce Beadenkopf (Michigan Center) :43.
215: Hayden Groth (Dowagiac) p. Trever Gritzmaker (Adrian Madison) 2:42.

Third Place
144: Treydan Vanderkooi (Allegan) d. Cameron White (Dowagiac) 8-2.
157: Ryan Sparks (Allegan) d. Leland Payne (Buchanan) 8-5 (OT).
215: Hayden Groth (Dowagiac) d. Dallas Smith (Napoleon) 6-1.

First Place
285: Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) p. Dylan

Boone (Brooklyn Columbia Central) 2:28.

DIVISION 4
At Martin
Quarterfinals
165: Alan Wegner (Cassopolis) p. Boston Byers (Bellevue) 3:38.

Semifinals
165: Brody Mead (Decatur) p. Alan Wegner (Cassopolis) 5:59.

Consolation semifinals
165: Colton Colingsworth (Gobles) p. Alan Wegner (Cassopolis) 4:41.

EXPERIENCED

Continued from page B1

minutes left in the game over Trevor Peterson-Evans' finger-tip roll layup. White Pigeon, howev-

er, got back-to-back three pointers from Josh Davidson, who ended the night as the game's high scorer

with 31 points.
Davidson, a senior, made 11 total field-goal attempts, including four triples, and swished 5-of-6 free-throw tosses.
White Pigeon closed the contest with a 23-14 scoring advantage over Cassopolis during the fourth quarter.
Wes Roberts added 10 points for White Pigeon, while Jordan Pisco and Mekhi Singleton added nine apiece and Ty Strawser had six.
"All three of their kids up top (Pisco, Singleton and Davidson) can shoot the basketball and they are very athletic. They are a good basketball team with six seniors and I don't have even one," Super-

zynski said.
"We're very young, but our kids are starting to figure things out while they take their lumps. They are having fun out there and the game's not moving as fast for them any longer. Lucas Williams has been incredible for us scoring wise. There are nights where we are starting three freshmen. When we are all clicking we can be a really good team."
White Pigeon made 24 field-goal attempts and netted an impressive 17-of-20 (85 percent) free-throw attempts.
Peterson-Evans paced Cassopolis in the scoring column with 16, including 14 during the second half. Sophomore Lucas

Williams netted 15, Jaylen Pratt tossed in eight and Ayden Gillam added six.
White Pigeon outrebounded Cassopolis 34-23.
Cassopolis made a total of 21 field goals and went to the free-throw line just once and made the freebie.
Pratt had six rebounds, two assists and one steal for the Rangers. Williams added five boards, a pair of assists and one steal. Peterson-Evans had three rebounds and Gillam added five rebounds and two steals.
White Pigeon coach Shawn Strawser agreed that experience played a big part in his team's win.
"Cassopolis has a great

group of young players who are going to be really good here the next couple of years. We have a lot of experience on our team. Josh has been on varsity a while and tonight he stepped up and gave us one of the best games of his career. Our defense was pretty good tonight. We gave up some easy buckets in the second half and they were able to get close. It was nice to see our defense step up on a bad shooting night," Strawser said.
White Pigeon is scheduled to compete in the same district at Cassopolis next week. The Chiefs will face Niles Brandywine in one of two semifinal contests scheduled for Wednesday.

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BASKETBALL

BRANDYWINE’S YOUNG SIGNS WITH LMC BASKETBALL



Miley Young, a senior at Brandywine High School, signed her letter of intent this week to play basketball at Lake Michigan College next fall. Young is a four-year varsity player who helped the Bobcats earn a Division 3 runner-up finish last season and an undefeated record this season as the postseason approaches. “Miley will graduate this year as one of the hardest workers and greatest leaders we have ever had in our program,” said head coach Josh Hood. “Can’t wait to watch her thrive at the next level.”

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Ivey Named to Coach Of The Year Watch List

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — After a historic start to the 2024-25 season, Karen and Kevin Keyes Family Head Coach Niele Ivey has been named to the Naismith Women’s College Coach of the Year Watch List. Ivey has led her team to a 23-2 and 14-0 start along with a No. 1 ranking in both the AP and Coaches Polls. It’s Notre Dame’s first time at the top of the AP Poll since Jan. 21, 2019. The Irish are currently projected as a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and No. 4 overall. Notre Dame ranks well in the vast majority of cat-

egories statistically this year, too. The Irish lead the ACC in assists per game (18.3), field goal percentage (50.0), rebounds per game (43.8), rebound margin (10.7), steals per game (11.6), three point percentage (42.0) and three point percentage defense (42.0). The Irish lead the nation in three point percentage, rank fifth nationally in rebounds per game and have the No. 4 scoring offense in the nation (86.7). A former point guard herself, Ivey has helped coach All-Americans Hannah Hidalgo and Olivia Miles to already historic seasons. Hidalgo

ranks second nationally with 24.9 points per game and 4.0 steals per game. Miles is the only player in the country this year with three triple-doubles and posted back-to-back triple-doubles for the first time in ACC history (Loyola MD and Virginia). She is also leading the conference with 6.2 assists per game and is the league’s leading guard from the floor shooting-wise (52.8). Miles is the only player in the nation averaging 16 points, 6 rebounds and 6 assists per game. Up next, Ivey and the Irish hit the road for games at Miami on Thursday and No. 13 NC State on Sunday.



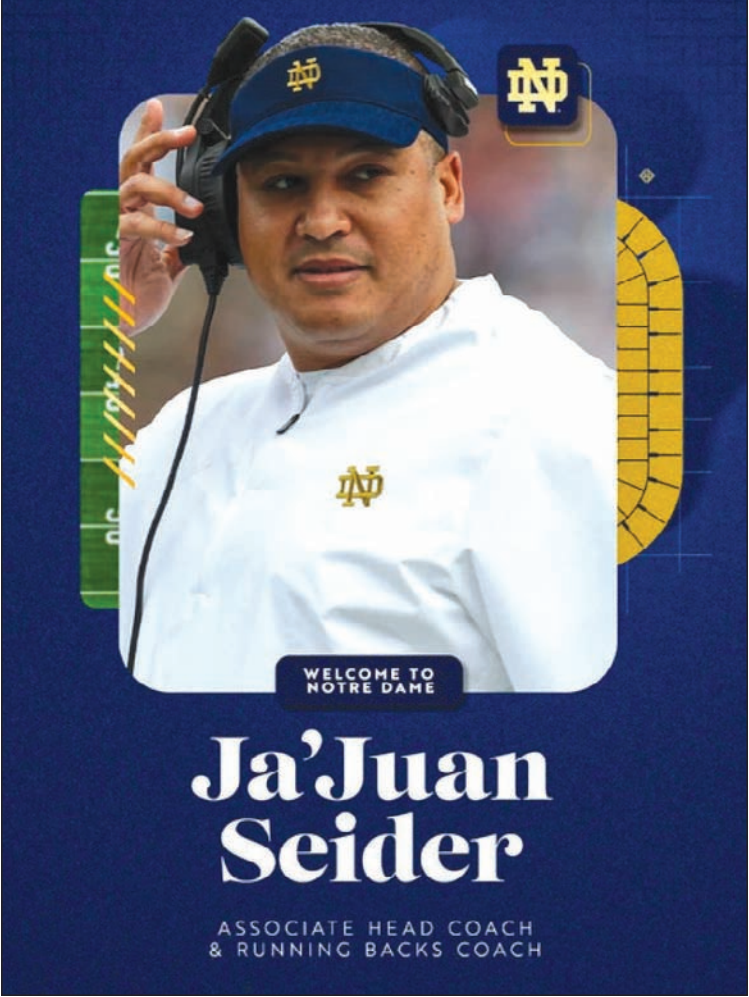
FOOTBALL

Seider named ND associate head coach, running backs coach

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The Notre Dame Football program has announced the hiring of Ja’Juan Seider (pronounced JAY-wahn cider) as associate head coach and running backs coach. The hiring will be effective at the conclusion of the University’s standard employment process. “Ja’Juan is a great offensive mind,” said Notre Dame Dick Corbett Head Football Coach Marcus Freeman. “He has coached multiple offensive positions, but his ability to recruit and develop high level running backs is exceptional. His experience utilizing multiple running backs effectively within the offense and simultaneously turning them into NFL talent is one of several reasons why he is a great fit for our program.” Seider joins the Irish entering his 19th season of collegiate coaching and beginning his 16th season coaching college running backs. Most recently the assistant head coach, co-offensive coordinator and running backs coach at Penn State, Seider mentored the Nittany Lions’ standout running backs group led by Kaytron Allen and Nicholas Singleton to record performances. Seider, himself a collegiate conference player of the year at Florida A&M in 1999, has coached several notable players throughout his career who went on to the professional ranks, including Miles Sanders, Charles Sims, Geno Smith and Pat White. In Seider’s seven seasons at Penn State, he further cemented a national reputation as a successful coach, leader and recruiter. He took on assistant head coach duties beginning in 2023,

in addition to his role as co-offensive coordinator since the start of the 2022 season. He was named the 247Sports Big Ten Recruiter of the Year in 2023, finishing fourth nationally in the recruiter rankings, and was recognized as a top 10 recruiter by On3 (2022) and 247Sports (2019). Seider mentored Allen and Singleton to All-Big Ten recognition in 2023 with Allen named to the second team and Singleton selected to the third team, following it up with honorable mention honors for both in 2024. In 2024, Allen (1,108 yards) and Singleton (1,099 yards) became the first Penn State duo to rush for 1,000 yards in a season. Singleton marked his second-career season with more than 1,000 rushing yards, becoming the ninth Penn State player with multiple 1,000-yard seasons. They were the only FBS duo to achieve the feat in 2024, and the first Big Ten pair to do so since 2016. In 2023, Allen ranked fourth in the Big Ten in yards per carry (5.2), fifth in yards (902) and tied for ninth in touchdowns (6), while Singleton was third in all-purpose yards (105.6) and tied for fifth in touchdowns (8). During the 2022 campaign, true freshmen Singleton (1,061 yards) and Allen (830 yards) became the first freshman duo in Big Ten history to both rush for 700+ rushing yards in a season. Since 2000, Singleton and Allen and West Virginia’s Steve Slaton and Pat White (2005) are the only true freshman duos with over 800 rushing yards in a season. Singleton joined Saquon Barkley (1,076; 2015) as the only Nittany Lions freshmen to reach 1,000 rushing yards in a season. In addition to being named a



Freshman All-American by the FWAA, Singleton was named the Big Ten Thompson-Randle El Freshman of the Year, AP Big Ten Newcomer of the Year and was selected third-team All-Big Ten by the coaches and media. In 2018, Penn State posted its highest rushing average (204.9) since 2008 (205.8), led by second-team All-Big Ten selection Miles Sanders. Sanders had 1,274 yards, ranking 11th on the PSU single-season chart. Seider spent one season (2017) as the running backs coach and

recruiting coordinator at the University of Florida, where his running backs finished with more than 1,500 rushing yards, including a pair of 500-yard rushers, and 13 touchdowns. As a unit, the Gator running backs averaged 4.0 yards per carry with freshmen Malik Davis (6.7 yards per carry) and Adarius Lemons (7.2 yards per carry) leading the way. Davis earned SEC All-Freshman honors for his efforts. Seider spent four seasons at West Virginia University as the running backs coach where he

coached a pair of NFL backs. In 2015, Seider guided Wendell Smallwood as he led the Big 12 with 1,519 yards on the way to second-team All-Big 12 accolades. Seider was part of a staff which helped the Mountaineers finish ninth in FBS in passing, 12th in total offense and 34th in scoring in 2014. In 2013, Seider recruited and mentored Charles Sims, who garnered first-team All-Big 12 honors and was the Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year after rushing for 1,095 yards and 11 touchdowns, while catching 45 passes for 401 yards and three scores. At Marshall, Seider helped the Thundering Herd win the Beef O’Brady’s Bowl in 2011 and recruited quarterback Rakeem Cato, who was the 2012 Conference USA Player of the Year and two-time Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year. Seider also mentored two Conference USA Freshmen of the Year in Kevin Grooms (2012) and Corey Tindal (2013). During his initial stint in Morgantown, Seider worked with quarterbacks Jarrett Brown, Geno Smith and Pat White. All three quarterbacks spent time in the NFL with White being a second-round selection in the 2009 NFL Draft and Smith going in the second round of the 2013 NFL Draft. Before his collegiate coaching career, Seider spent seven seasons as a high school football coach in Florida. He was the quarterbacks coach at Lake Worth High School (2006-07), offensive coordinator at Palm Beach Lakes High School (2003-05) and running backs coach at his high school alma mater, Glades Central High School (2001-02).

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PUBLIC NOTICE

HOWARD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF REVIEW

The Organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 12:30 pm at the Howard Township Hall, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles. No appeals of 2025 assessments will be heard at this time. The Board of Review will hear appeals on the 2025 assessments on Monday, March 10, 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Tuesday, March 11, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Resident and non-resident property owners may protest by letter if received by 12 pm on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Estimated multipliers for each class of property for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural.....	1.2900
Commercial.....	1.0948
Industrial.....	1.1171
Residential.....	1.0741

The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate multiplier for use in calculating 2025 capped value is 1.031

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the Township Clerk. If you require such aids or services and plan to appeal in person, please call the Township.

Shalice Northrop, Howard Township Assessor

2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW
ONTWA TOWNSHIP HALL
26225 US 12 E
EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112

BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS ONLY:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 @ 11:00 AM

Organizational meeting to approve the Assessment roll

NO APPEALS are heard during this meeting.

The Ontwa Township Board of Review for 2025 will be held on the following dates:

Monday, March 10TH, 2025 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM - Appeals Hearing

Tuesday, March 11TH, 2025 – 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Appeals Hearing

Please call the Ontwa Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM to set an appointment and get any additional information.

Ontwa 2025 Factors

Class	Study Ratio	Equality	Factor
101---Ag	42.42%	50.00%	1.179
201---Com	46.74%	50.00%	1.070
301---Ind	45.20%	50.00%	1.106
401---Res	45.93%	50.00%	1.089

The Board of Review may meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. Residents that are not currently in area can protest by letter, provided the letter is received no later than 2:00 PM on March 11th, 2025

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 7 days' notice. Please contact the Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347.

Board of Review Members: Mike Mroczek, Patricia Bellaire & Patty Lauten

Meryl Christensen (Supervisor)—Board of Review Secretary

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Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking \$75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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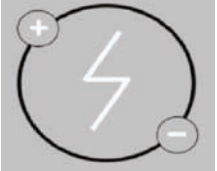
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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF NILES
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The March Board of Review will meet at the City Hall: 333 N. 2nd Street - City of Niles, Michigan 49120
March 4th, 2025 (9:00am) = Organizational Meeting – No Appeals
March 11th, 2025 (1:00pm – 7:30pm) = Appeal Hearing***
March 12th, 2025 (1:00pm – 7:30pm) = Appeal Hearing***

All appeals will be heard by appointment only. Please call 269-683-4700 x1010 or EMAIL assessor@nilesmi.org to schedule an appointment. Residents may protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to 5:00pm March 10th, 2025. Walk-in appeals will be heard as time permits after all appointments have been heard.

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary

Public Notices

reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 days' notice. Contact Tina Bergman – 269.683.4700 x3030
Edward VanderVries
Niles City Assessor
Tina Bergman
Niles City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8 15 and 22, 2025
MARCH REVIEW

PUBLIC NOTICE

The February 13, 2025, Bertrand Charter Township Board Regular Meeting and Bertrand Charter Township Budget Hearing and Bertrand Charter Township Fire District Budget Hearing draft minutes have been posted at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107 and on the township website (bertrandtwpmi.gov). Polly White, Clerk Bertrand Charter Township

Niles Daily Star: Feb. 22, 2025
MEETING

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION
Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St. Niles, MI. 49120 February 22, 2025 @ 4:00 pm Owner's lien - overdue rents

Unit # 52 Brooke King Furniture, Kids Toys, Clothing, Multiple lg boxes, Misc Household goods

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15 and 22, 2025
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2. Free standard installation applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. For the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports. Go to: <https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/>
Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.hughesnet.com for details.
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PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
CASE NO. U-21843

- Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval of an amended Renewable Energy Plan for 2025 to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008, as amended by Public Act 235 of 2023.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company, Benton Harbor Service Center, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, (800) 311-6424, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: <https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/>.
- A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 9:30 AM

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders

LOCATION: Video/Teleconference

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA-MOAH-R-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) January 17, 2025 application requesting the Commission to: 1) determine I&M's compliance with 2008 PA 295, as amended by 2023 PA 235, and whether its Amended Renewable Energy Plan (REP) is reasonable, prudent, and consistent with all applicable requirements; 2) approve I&M's Amended REP and assumptions therein as reasonable and prudent and compliant with 2008 PA 295, as amended by 2023 PA 235, the Commission's Orders in Case No. U-21568, and all other applicable law; 3) approve I&M's calculated incremental cost of compliance as consistent with 2008 PA 295, as amended by 2023 PA 235, the Commission's Orders in Case No. U-21568, and all other applicable law; 4) approve the replacement of current effective Renewable Energy Surcharge tariff, Original Sheet No. D-120.00, from Tariff Book M.P.S.C. 18- Electric, with blank First Revised Sheet No. D-120.00, reserved for future use; 5) authorize the necessary accounting and regulatory authority to effectuate I&M's Amended REP; and 6) grant I&M other and further relief as may be lawful, necessary and proper.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: <https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/>. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by March 4, 2025. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Jason T. Hanselman, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-21843. Statements may be emailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090. Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq.; and Parts 1 & 4 of the Administrative Hearing Rules of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7); R 792.10121; and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.



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U-21843

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